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**Calicinet Outbreak Support Center (Calicinet OSC)
Guidance for testing for the 2010-11 Norovirus Season**

Background:

The Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL) of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is one of five Calicinet Outbreak Support Centers (Calicinet OSCs) in conjunction with CDC. The OSCs will provide norovirus testing and strain typing services for this upcoming norovirus season. Specifically, the VRDL will provide real-time PCR testing (if not already performed at the submitting state laboratory) and sequencing for strain typing by region D and region C PCR.

Recommendations for Testing:

For the 2010-11 season, VRDL recommendations for testing by submitter laboratories:

- Submitter laboratories will:
 - Perform Norovirus real-time PCR to identify Norovirus outbreaks and determine genogroup (GI or GII). If real-time PCR is not performed at the submitter laboratory, real-time PCR will be done at VRDL.
 - Forward to VRDL 4-5 positive stool samples (minimum 2 positive stools) per outbreak with a CT value of less than or equal to 30. Samples not tested by real-time PCR will be submitted based upon clinical and epidemiological data that suggest the outbreak is associated with Noroviruses.
 - Complete a submittal form (see attached). Include genogroup and CT value, if available.
- Non-Long Term Care Facility settings should be prioritized; Waterborne and foodborne associated outbreaks are of special interest.
- Please contact Katharine King at Katharine.King@cdph.ca.gov, or 510-307-8562 prior to shipping. Katharine can provide you with a FedEx shipping account number to cover the cost of the shipment. Please also email an electronic copy of submittal form to her attention.

Molecular Epidemiology:

For outbreaks confirmed by real-time PCR to be associated with norovirus, further molecular characterization will be performed at VRDL. Primers specific for GI or GII in region D (capsid) will be amplified, sequenced and analyzed phylogenetically. Sequences will then be uploaded to the national Calicinet database at CDC within two weeks of receipt of specimens from the submitter laboratory.

For questions about norovirus testing and Calicinet at VRDL, contact Chao Pan at Chao-Yang.Pan@cdph.ca.gov or 510-307-8548 (work).